1346 m 7 (324)

Captain Johnston's Laſt Farewell:

Who was arraing'd for being aſſiſting in ſtealing a young Heireſs. for which he was executed at Tyburn, the 23d of December, 1696.

YOu noble lords of high degree,
that hear my diſmal doom,
Have ſome regard to pity me,
who now alas am come,
To die an ignominious death,
as it doth well appear,
While I declare with my laſt breath
the laws are moſt ſevere.
In Scotland I was bred and born,
of noble parents there,
Good education did adorn
my life I do declare,
No crime did e'er my conſcience
till I adventur'd here, (ſtain
Thus have I reaſon to complain,
the laws, &c.
In Flanders I have fac'd the French
likewiſe into Ireland;
Still eagerly purſued the chaſe,
with valiant heart and hand,
Why was I not in battle ſlain,
rather than ſuffer here,
A death which mortals do diſdain,
the laws, &c.
I did not hurt nor wrong indeed.
I ſolemnly proteſt;
But merely for to help a friend,
I granted his requeſt,
To free this lady out of thrall
his joy and only dear,
And now my life muſt pay for all,
the laws, &c.
I coming from my native land
at this unhappy time,
Alas! I did not underſtand,
the nature of the crime;
Therefore I ſoon did condeſcend,
as it doth well appear,
And find therein I do offend,
the laws, &c.
In the ſame lodging he lay,
and liv'd at bed and board,
My landlord did my life betray
for fifty pounds reward;
Then being into priſon caſt
altho' without conſcience clear,
I was arrainged at the laſt,
the laws, &c.
This lady would not hear my moan
while dying words I ſent;
Her cruel heart more hard then ſtone
would not the leaſt relent;
But triumphing in my wretched ſtate
as I do often hear,
I fall here by the hand of fate,
the laws, &c.
Will not my good and gracious king
be merciful to me;
Is there not in his breaſt a ſpring
of princely clemancy?
No not for me alas I die,
the hour is drawing near?
To the laſt minute I will cry,
the laws, &c.
Farewell dear countrymen, ſaid he
and this tumultuous noiſe,
My ſoul ſhall now tranſported be
to more celeſtial joys.
Tho' in the bloſſom of my youth,
pale death I do not fear,
For to the laſt I'll ſpeak the truth,
the laws, &c.
Alas I have not long to live,
and therefore now ſaid he,
All that have wronged me I forgive
as God ſhall pardon me,
My landlord and his ſubtile wife,
I do forgive them here;
Farewell this tranſitory life
the laws are moſt ſevere.

F I N I S.

March 2, 1776.